

will at the same time deny the close relation existing between the marine *Cerithia*, the brackish *Potamides* and the species of *Cerithidea* above referred to.

V. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SCINCUS,—by DR. J. ANDERSON.

Scincus Mitranus, n. sp.*

Head rather small and much pointed; tail short and thick at the base. Snout contracted behind the nostrils and dilated in front of them, sharp, spatulate and fossorial. Nasal crescentic, occupying the place of a first superior labial, but with the lateral portion of the rostral below it, in contact with the rostral, first labial, anterior loreal, large supranasal and small internasal. The supranasals large, not contiguous, pentagonal, four of their sides large and one very small, in contact with the internasal. Internasal small, rounded, lying between the rostral, nasal and supranasal. Rostral with a broad, rounded, sharp anterior margin; its sides much convergent; its posterior end forming only a narrow suture with the frontal; its under surface broad and slightly shelving upwards; its posterior margin a crescentic, cutting ridge, defined from the surface anterior to it, by a deep groove. The frontal large, conical from behind forwards, and pointedly unguiform, forming sutures with the rostral, supranasal, anterior loreal, and contiguous by its hinder margins with the post frontals. Post frontals large, pentagonal, broad in front, pointed behind, forming a broad suture together. Vertical of moderate size, rather narrow, its anterior margins forming an obtuse angle; lateral margins concave and slightly convergent; abruptly truncated posteriorly. Two pre-occipitals rather small, oblongly pentagonal, placed obliquely, and contiguous. Occipital considerably smaller than the vertical and wedge-shaped from before backwards: two rather large scales placed transversely along its external margin. Two small postoccipitals. Five large superciliaries with an internal line of four small plates, the first of which equals the length of the three succeeding ones. Four rather large scales form the lower margin of the eye, the anterior scale as long as the two behind it. Loreal region concave. Two elongated loreals one before the other, the anterior shield in contact with the supranasal, nasal and three lower labials. Eight upper labials, the two below the

* I have named this lizard in honour of my learned friend Bábu Rájendralála Mitra who obtained it under the circumstances mentioned on page 96.

eye the largest. Eight lower labials: a large shield behind the mental succeeded by three pairs of large shields, separated from each other by a median, longitudinal, row of three smaller shields. External ear completely hidden. Twenty-nine to thirty rows of smooth, imbricate scales round the middle of the body. Two large preanal scales.

Colour of dried specimen yellowish buff above, each scale with a white spot in the centre of its free margin with a brown spot on either side of it. Ten vertically elongated, or more or less rounded, deep red-brown spots along the side from the middle of the neck to above the thigh, the last spot reduced to little more than a speck. Sides and under surface yellowish. Snout to vent 4" 12"; vent to tip of tail 2" 5"; snout to posterior margin of occipital 8"; anterior limb 1" 1"; posterior limb, 1" 2".

The nails of this scinc are flat and broad, and rather concave on the under surface: the toes are laterally extended by the outward elongation of the dorsal scales, an arrangement which gives the foot great breadth, and suggests the idea that it is specially modified to a fossorial habit of life.

The specimen from which this description is drawn, was obtained by Bábu Rájendralála Mitra from a Kashmír merchant, who stated that it came from Arabia and that it was the El-adda of the Arabs. It is extremely likely that this term is a generic one applied to a number of nearly allied scincs, inhabiting Arabia, Syria, Egypt and Abyssinia, (see antea, p. 96).

The present species is distinguished from *S. officinalis*,—if the descriptions and drawings of that lizard are correct,—by its more markedly fossorial snout and by the number, form and disposition of its cranial plates, and by its peculiar coloration. Another species from Arabia is the *Sc. meccensis*, Hemp. and Ehr.

The reading of the next paper was postponed.

Notes on several Arabic and Persian inscriptions, by H. Blochmann, Esq., M. A.

The following communications have been received:—

1. *Legends and Ballads connected with persons deified, or held in great veneration, in Bhagulpír and the neighbouring districts*, by Bábu Rashbilári Bose.

2. *List of birds, collected, or observed in the Wardha Valley and its vicinity near Chanda*, by W. T. Blanford, Esq.